

Sri Krishna Kathamrita



Bindu

Issue 602

gopī-dāsyah

Servant of the Gopis





Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

Fortnightly email mini-magazine from Gopal Jiu Publications

Issue No. 602

Śrī Kāmikā Ekādaśī

21 July 2025

Highlights

• SERVANT OF THE SERVANT OF THE GOPIS

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

• SUBORDINATE TO THE GOPIS

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

• THE TOPMOST GURU

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja



SERVANT OF THE SERVANT OF THE GOPIS



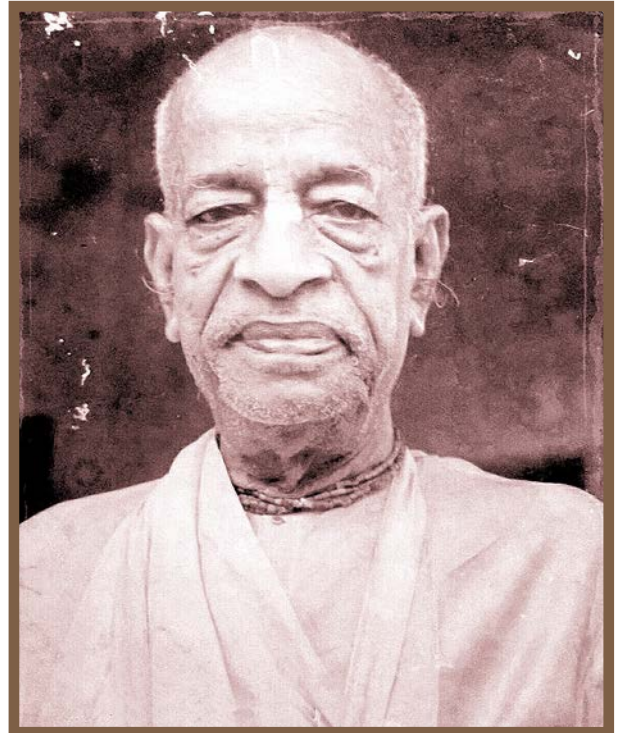
His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

We must always remember that if we want to be recognized by Krishna, if we want to become inhabitants of Vrindavan, then we must take this lesson given by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, *gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-dāsānudāsaḥ* — we should identify ourselves as the most obedient servants of the servants of the Lord, who maintains the *gopī* damsels at Vrindavan.” [Cc. madhya 13.80]

To endeavor to become *gopīs*, that is also *Māyāvādī*, that, “I shall become a *gopī*.” No. You have to become the servant of the servant of the servant of *gopīs*. Otherwise, by *ahaṅkāra*, false ego, you will again be misled. This is a material disease. Everyone is full of some *ahaṅkāra*, “I am this,” “I am this,” “I am a Brahmin,” “I am a *sannyāsī*,” “I am lord,” etc, etc. So many things. As long as this mentality continues, it is *māyā*. Actually, he is not in that position. Therefore, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu teaches from the very beginning, “I am the eternal servant of Krishna.” That is real knowledge.

This knowledge is achieved at the end of endeavoring for many, many births. It is not achieved by foolish rascals, but by someone who is *jñānavān* — one who possesses real knowledge. This *gopī-bhartuḥ pada-kamalayor dāsa-*



Unknown photographer.

dāsānudāsaḥ only comes after many, many births. (From a lecture in Vrindavan. 2 October 1976.)

nikuñja-yūno rati-keli-siddhyai
yā yālibhir yuktir apekṣaṇīyā
tatrāti-dākṣyād ati-vallabhasya
vande guroḥ śrī-caraṇāravindam

The spiritual master’s ultimate goal is that he wants to be transferred to the planet of Krishna, where he can associate with the *gopīs* to help them serve Krishna.

Cover: Vintage painting of four *gopīs* by an unknown artist. Likely Rajasthani in the 1800s.

Unknown artist. Vintage painting.



The gopīs worship Krishna

Some spiritual masters are thinking of becoming assistants to the gopīs, some are thinking of becoming assistants to the cowherd boys, some are thinking of becoming assistants to Nanda and Mother Yasoda, and some are thinking of becoming God's servants. Some are thinking of becoming flower trees, fruit trees, calves, or cows in Vrindavan. There are five kinds of mellows: *śānta* [veneration], *dāsyā* [servitorship], *sakhya* [friendship], *vātsalya* [parenthood], and *mādhurya* [conjugal love]. Everything is there in the spiritual world. *Cintāmaṇi-prakara-sadmasu*. In the spiritual sky, even the land is spiritual. The trees are spiritual, the fruit is spiritual, the flowers are spiritual, the water is spiritual, the servants are spiritual, the friends are spiritual, the mothers are spiritual, the fathers are spiritual, the Lord is spiritual, and his associates are spiritual. It is all absolute, although there are varieties. (*Journey of Self Discovery* 4.2.)

The policy should be that the people may not understand gopīs like ordinary girls or like that. You should be careful to present the gopīs. It does not mean that, "We shall not utter even the name of gopīs. We have taken a vow to boycott the gopīs." No. They are our worshipable devotees. How can

we avoid them? (Conversation in Boston with BTG staff. 24 December 1969.) 🍊



Unknown artist. Vintage painting.

Odia pattachitra painting called, "Kandarpa Aśva" the gopīs as a horse vehicle for Krishna



Unknown artist. c. 1720-30 Rajasthan, Rajput Kingdom of Kota.

Krishna and the gopīs in the rāsa-maṇḍala



The gopīs play holi with Krishna

SUBORDINATE TO THE GOPIS

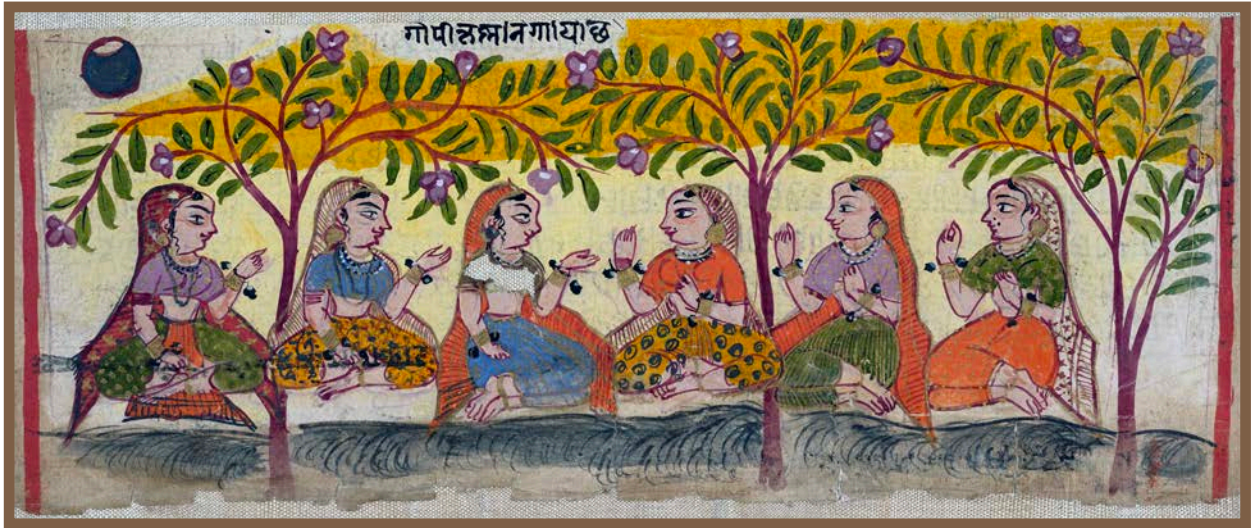


Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

No one has the right to drink even a drop of nectar from the ocean of the transcendental mellows of Lord Krishna's pastimes without the mercy of the daughter of King Vrishabhanu. That is why, due to

lack of subordination to the *gopīs*, Laksmi and her descendants, the followers of the Sri Sampradaya, have no right to see the beauty of the service of Sri Radha-Govinda. (From a letter written from Sriranga Kshetra, Trichi, Madras, 5 December 1926.)

The cowherd boys of Vraja, like Subala, Ujjvala, Arjuna, and Madhumangala, who are Krishna's *priya-narma-sakhas* and who are under the shelter of *sakhya-rasa* with love assist the eight principal *gopīs* in their *madhurya* service. (Letter written from Alalanatha, Odisha, 2 July 1934.) 🍌



The gopīs speaking amongst themselves about Krishna



THE TOPMOST GURU

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

Krishna is *gopī-guru*, *guru-vallabha*, and *guru-nātha*. If you go up and up in the *guru-paramparā*, where will you reach? You will reach Krishna. The *guru-paramparā* begins from Krishna. But Krishna says, *rādhikāra prema guru, āmi śiṣya naṭa* — “Radharani is my guru. I am her disciple.” [Cc. ādi 4.124] That means that in the *guru-paramparā* the topmost position is occupied by Srimati Radharani. She is *gopī-śreṣṭha*, the topmost *gopī*. Therefore, in *guru-tattva* you will find, *gopī-guru*, *guru-vallabha*, *guru-nātha*, the master or husband of the *gopīs* is Krishna. Bhaktivinoda Thakur, a famous guru, *ācārya*, in the Gaudiya line, says, *gopīnātha, kemone śodhibe more* — “O Gopinath! How can you purify me?” [Kalyāṇa-kalpa-taru 3.1]

I am a disciple and I will always remain a disciple of my guru. This is *śiṣya-abhimāna*, the attitude of a disciple. O Gurudeva! I am a speck of dust at your lotus feet. I am not equal to you. I cannot sit on equal *āsana* with you. I am your servant. Let my heart be always tinged with this *dāsyā-bhāva* — mood of servitorship.

This is the prayer of the true disciple. He never says, “I am guru.” He always remains as the disciple of the guru. 🍊

— From chapter 6 of *Worship of Sri Guru*. Originally spoken as a lecture at his *Vyāsa-pūjā* festival in Bhubaneswar in 1995.



ONLY BY THE MERCY OF THE GOPIS

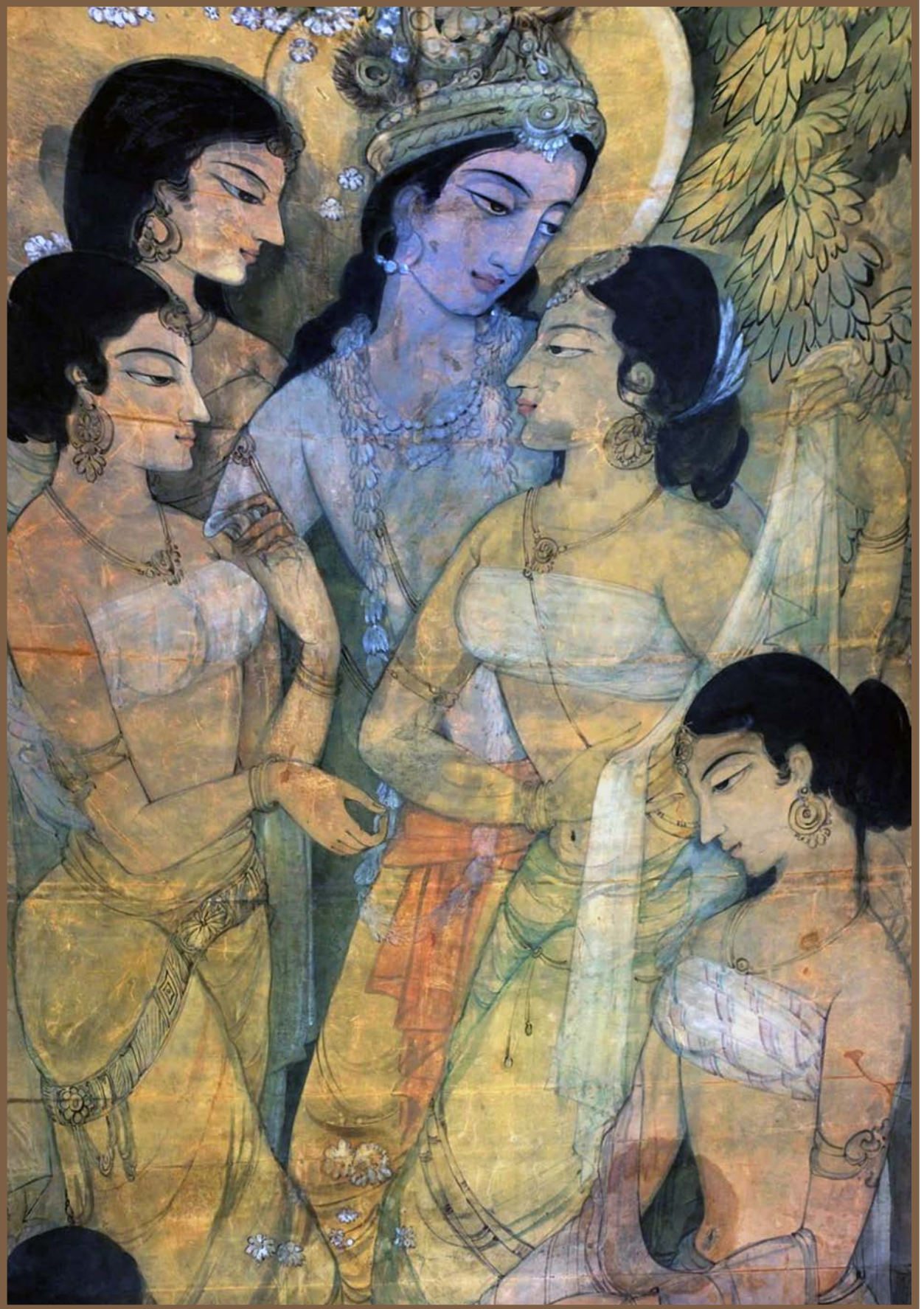
Srila Krishnadas Kaviraj Goswami's
Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta madhya 8.204-5

sakhī vinā ei līlāya anyera nāhi gati
sakhī-bhāve ye tānre kare anugati
rādhā-kṛṣṇa-kuñjasevā-sādhya sei pāya
sei sādhyā pāite āra nāhika upāya

Without the help of the *gopīs*, one cannot enter into these pastimes. Only one who worships the Lord in the ecstasy of the *gopīs*, following in their footsteps, can engage in the service of Sri Sri Radha-Krishna in the bushes of Vrindavan. Only then can one understand the conjugal love between Radha and Krishna. There is no other procedure for understanding.

— Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. Los Angeles. 1975.





Painting by Ram Gopal Vijayvargiya. 1930

Krishna with the gopis



READERS' LETTERS TO BINDU

Comments on Bindu 601, Alone in the Crowd

Lots of good points here. — Madhavi Derooy.

I can very much relate, it gives solace to not be that alone after all. — Visakha Claudia.

Excellent insights. One consideration about the parallel path of spreading *bhakti* to others. The onus is not on each one of us to spread this gift worldwide. We need only focus on our sphere of influence, however small or big that may be. The path of *bhakti* is very personal - small is better. — Uttamasloka Dasa.

Simply wonderful. Thank you. This is such a treasure — Jahnava Mata Dasi (Jambavati Dasi).

Very thoughtful essay. — Amrita Gopala Dasi.

The reflections on emotional isolation versus the chosen solitude of the spiritual seeker were profound — capturing the struggle of staying authentic while feeling invisible. It was deeply motivating. — Radharani Devi Dasi.

Srila Prabhupada said that, “Although he was alone most of his life he never felt lonely because he felt the presence of guru and Krishna always.” On the other hand, one can feel lonely even in a crowded

place, so ultimately it is a matter of consciousness. We should always seek the company of advanced devotees as Srila Rupa Goswami says *nindādi-sūnya-hṛdam īpsita-saṅga-labdhyā*. (NOI. 5). Hare Krishna! — Shyamananda Dasa.

Much needed realizations. — Karuna Devi Dasi.

Just exquisite, as always! All glories to the Vaisnavas and Vaisnavataa responsible for these essential and wonderfully illustrated teachings!!! Jaya Sri Sri Guru Gauranga!! — Kanaka Manjari Dasi (Kilimba dd)

Thank you! This issue was helpful! Maybe one day I will learn that art of living alone in the crowd. Perhaps you would like the following poem called, "Breathe" by Becky Hemsley:

She sat at the back and they said she was shy,
She led from the front and they hated her pride,
They asked her advice and then questioned her guidance,
They branded her loud, then were shocked by her silence,

When she shared no ambition they said it was sad,
So she told them her dreams and they said she was mad,

They told her they'd listen, then covered their ears,
And gave her a hug while they laughed at her fears,

And she listened to all of it thinking she should,
Be the girl they told her to be best as she could,

But one day she asked what was best for herself,
Instead of trying to please everyone else,
So she walked to the forest and stood with the trees,
She heard the wind whisper and dance with the leaves,
She spoke to the willow, the elm and the pine,
And she told them what she'd been told time after time,
She told them she felt she was never enough,
She was either too little or far far too much,
Too loud or too quiet, too fierce or too weak,
Too wise or too foolish, too bold or too meek,
Then she found a small clearing surrounded by firs,
And she stopped...and she heard what the trees said to her,

And she sat there for hours not wanting to leave,
For the forest said nothing, it just let her breathe.

-- Rupamati DD.

SRI KRISHNA KATHAMRITA BINDU

A free bi-monthly service provided by Gopal Jiu Publications

Gopal Jiu Publications is a section of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Quotations from the books, letters, and lectures of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada ©Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. All other materials, unless specified, © ISKCON Gopal Jiu Publications. All rights reserved. Blanket permission is given to redistribute Bindu in electronic or print form provided no changes are made to the contents.